CLAIMS

1.   A method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated handwriting, comprising the steps of:

   accessing a website having a user interface;

   entering a text message through the user interface;

   creating a graphic image of simulated handwriting that corresponds to the text message.

10   2.   The method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated human handwriting of claim 1, further comprising a step of specifying one or more formatting parameters.

3.   The method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated
15   human handwriting of claim 2, wherein the specifying step includes choosing a pen type.

4.   The method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated human handwriting of claim 3, wherein the pen types include ballpoint, felt-tip and calligraphic.

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5.   The method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated human handwriting of claim 2, wherein the specifying step includes choosing a degree of messiness.

25   6.   The method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated human handwriting of claim 2, wherein the specifying step includes choosing size of lettering.

7.   The method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated
30   human handwriting of claim 2, wherein the specifying step includes choosing between a wandering text baseline and a straight text baseline.

8.	The method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated human handwriting of claim 2, wherein the specifying step includes choosing a handwriting script.

9.	The method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated human handwriting of claim 8, wherein the creating step includes:

accessing a database containing the chosen handwriting script;

selecting letter shapes from the handwriting script database that correspond to the text message;

joining the letters shapes;

drawing the strokes to create the graphic image.

10.	The method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated human handwriting of claim 9, wherein the graphic image is a high-resolution image.

11.	The method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated human handwriting of claim 10, further comprising the step of reducing the high-resolution image to a more compact low-resolution image through an anti-aliasing procedure.

12.	The method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated human handwriting of claim 11, further comprising the step of reviewing the low-resolution image.

13.	The method for generating an electronic mail message containing simulated human handwriting of claim 12, further comprising the step of sending the low-resolution image to a recipient.

14.	A system for sending and receiving an electronic mail (email) message, wherein a portion of the email message has a handwritten appearance, comprising:

a network;

a first access device associated with an email sender and connected to the network, wherein the first access device further comprises means for entering a text message and formatting parameters;

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a second access device associated with an email recipient and connected to the network; and

.a server connected to both the first access device via the network and the second access device via the network, for receiving the text message from the first access device, for converting the text message into a graphic image containing simulated handwriting and for forwarding the graphic image to the second access device.

15. The system for sending and receiving an email message of claim 14, wherein the text message is converted into a graphic image using a software program on the server.

16. The system for sending and receiving an email message of claim 15, wherein the software program uses the text message and formatting parameters to generate a high-resolution graphic image.

17. A method for converting a text message into a communication message containing a graphic image of simulated handwriting, comprising the steps of:

receiving a text message from a first site on a communications network;

converting the text message into the end user communication message containing a graphic image of simulated handwriting, wherein the format of the communication message is capable of being recognized by a user; and

transmitting the converted communication message to the user at a second site.

18. A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for converting a text message into an email message, said computer program accomplishing the steps of:

receiving a text message and a set of formatting parameters from an end user from a first site;

converting the text message into a graphic image containing simulated handwriting; and

transmitting the graphic image to at least one end user at a second site.